

Dear USDA Approved Software Company:

The ninth release of the Child Nutrition Database (CN9) is currently available for computer software companies that have received approval from the Department of Agriculture for their nutrient analysis software. The CN9 release contains over 2,500 new or revised items for a total of 15,595 food items, including about 12,500 processed foods. The ninth release can be downloaded from the Healthy School Meals Resource System website at <http://schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov/Software>. This web location also contains the *System Components and File Formats* document that defines the structural design of the CN9 Database. Please note that the USDA Recipes have been updated which affects the information in the Food Description Table, the Weights Table and the Nutrient Value Table of CN9. Five recipes have been added and two have been removed.

The CN9 Database is an integral part of both the Nutrient Standard and Assisted Nutrient Standard Menu Planning Systems. The new data is vital to School Meals Program administrators, especially the updated and new nutrient values. We ask that you notify Tim Vázquez at (703) 305-2609, as soon as possible if your software users will not be updated with the new CN9 Database within 90 days of receiving this letter. Tim is also available to answer any questions you may have about the new CN9 Database. Once updated, please forward a copy of your software to Natalie Partridge, C/O National Agricultural Library, Food and Nutrition Information Center, Room 105, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351.

Sincerely,

STANLEY C. GARNETT  
Director  
Child Nutrition Division

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